

REMARKS

Prior to this amendment, Claims 1-22 were pending in the application. By this amendment, no claims are canceled and no claims are added. In response to a restriction requirement, Claims 16-21 are provisionally elected for further prosecution. Hence, Claims 1-22 are pending in the application, with Claims 16-21 under consideration.

SUMMARY OF THE OFFICE ACTION

Restriction to one of the following groups of claims was required under 35 U.S.C. §121.

Group I: Claims 1-13;

Group II: Claims 14-15;

Group III: Claims 16-21; and

Group IV: Claim 22.

RESTRICTION/ELECTION

The restriction/election requirement is traversed. Specifically, a restriction between Groups III and IV is improper because Claim 17 is a claim to a product linking a process of using, as recited in Claim 22.

However, in response to the restriction, Applicants provisionally elect Group III for further prosecution, currently consisting of Claims 16-21.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims that remain under consideration (16-22) are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages or credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 10/18/04

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on 10/18, 2004

by Darci Sakamoto
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